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(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS IN AND RELATING TO A METHOD OF DNA TESTING FOR \_\_\_\_\_ MYCOBACTERIUM PARATUBERCULOSIS STRAINS

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the discovery of a DNA sequence in sheep types of *M. paratuberculosis* that differs from the homologous sequence in cattle types of *M. paratuberculosis*. The invention also provides a nucleic acid amplification technique based on these differences that can be used to distinguish strains of the cattle type from strains of both the sheep types of *M. paratuberculosis*. The invention also relates to use of these sequences in a nucleic acid amplification technique to distinguish all strains of *M. paratuberculosis* from other strains of the MAI complex and from strains of the *M. tuberculosis* complex.

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